New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

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**N.B. Human Rights Commission**

# Human Rights Commission members appointed (02/07/11)

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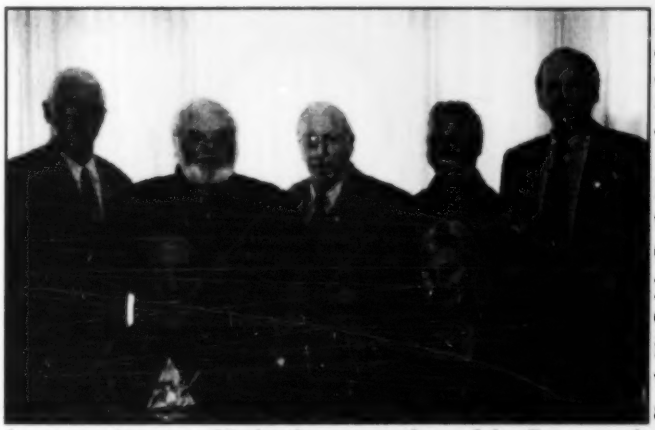
FREDERICTON (CNB) -- New Brunswick Human Rights Commission Chairman Patrick Malcolmson today welcomed the appointment of three new commission members and the re-appointment of a fourth member.

Malcolm A. Harris of Saint John, Jean-Claude Jalbert of Grand Falls and Alanna Palmer of Fredericton were appointed to the Human Rights Commission for three-year terms. André LeBlanc of Moncton, was re-appointed.



***Back row, from left: Malcolm Harris, Gordon Porter of Saint John, André LeBlanc, David Peters of Saint John, Patrick Malcolmson, chairman, from Fredericton, and, front row from left, Jean-Claude Jalbert and Alanna Palmer. (Large photo)***

Malcolm Harris, B.B.A., R.R.P., retired from the Workplace, Health, Safety and Compensation Commission in 2000 after 25 years of service. Since 1992, he had been a case manager responsible for developing and implementing individual plans to allow injured workers to return to work. He now counsels amputees on a volunteer basis and is a part time tutor/mentor. He is also a member of the Preservation Review Board of Saint John.

Jean-Claude Jalbert is the President of the New Brunswick Association for Community Living and an executive of the Canadian Association for Community Living. He is a former vice-president of People First of New Brunswick and a former member of the board of directors of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons from 1998 to 2000. He represented Canada at the Inclusion International world conferences in 1998 and 2002.

Alanna Palmer, B.B.A., B.Ed., is the director of ATHENE, the training division of the Institut de Memramcook Institute, and the vice-chair of the New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts. She authored the code of conduct and disciplinary policy of a national sports organization and has been a consultant to the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

André LeBlanc retired from NB Power in 1988 after a lengthy and distinguished career. He is involved

in the development of the Moncton Regional Council of the Federation of New Brunswick Senior Citizens, and has been a director of the Club d'âge d'or du Christ-Roi and the Beauséjour Curling Club in Moncton. He has also been a director of the credit union and of the Co-op in Cap Pelé, and has held a variety of positions on other boards and associations.

The other members of the Commission are Dr. Gordon L. Porter, a well-known expert on inclusive education from Woodstock, David J. Peters, CCdC, a Black community activist and retired chef from Saint John, and Dr. Patrick N. Malcolmson, a Political Science professor at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, who is chairman of the commission.

"I am pleased at the dedication and experience of our new members," Malcolmson said. "Commission members have a substantial responsibility and an enormous workload. At every meeting, they must make difficult decisions based on evolving case law and conflicting allegations, all the while respecting due process. Their decisions may have a profound effect on people's lives and they take this responsibility very seriously."

The Human Rights Commission administers the provincial *Human Rights Act*, which prohibits discrimination and harassment based on 12 grounds. It applies mainly to all aspects employment, public services and housing, except those that fall under federal jurisdiction.

The first meeting attended by the new members was held on June 19 and 20 in Fredericton. Meeting documentation was circulated ahead of time so that members could read it; it typically runs in the hundreds of pages. The first day was dedicated to strategic planning and professional development. On the second day, the commission reviewed the staff's investigation reports and the parties' responses on six formal complaints; three were dismissed and three were referred to formal conciliation. Two formal complaints were also closed as settled, leaving 22 under conciliation and 100 under investigation. Formal complaints represent one quarter to one third of the commission's caseload, the rest are informal complaints which are resolved before having to go to a commission meeting. The members also considered an appeal of a file closure by the director and were updated on the educational activities of the staff and on two cases that were before human rights boards of inquiry.

02/07/10

EDITOR'S NOTE: Additional photos and biographical notes are available online at: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/members.htm. MEDIA CONTACT: Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, Chairman, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 1-506-453-2301.

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